

**In the Claims:**

1 - 45. (Canceled)

46. (New) A method for providing authentication when messages are sent between an electronic communication apparatus and a server according to a synchronization protocol, comprising:

providing an authentication method indicator that specifies an authentication method according to which the authentication is to be executed;

incorporating into a message the authentication method indicator comprising a plurality of authentication capabilities of the communication apparatus; and

transmitting said message to said server according to an authentication protocol of the synchronization protocol.

47. (New) The method according to claim 46, wherein the authentication method indicator is incorporated into a meta command of the synchronization protocol.

48. (New) The method according to claim 46, wherein the message is an initialization message, and the authentication capabilities of the electronic communication apparatus is indicated in an authentication method list of the initialization message, which is sent to the server for establishing a connection.

49. (New) The method according to claim 46, wherein any authentication data relating to the specified authentication method is incorporated in a data string of the message sent according to the synchronization protocol.

50. (New) The method according to claim 46, wherein the authentication method is GSM SIM authentication.

51. (New) The method according to claim 46, wherein the authentication method is UMTS USIM authentication, which provides server authentication.

52. (New) The method according to claim 46, wherein the authentication method is WPKI or WIM authentication.

53. (New) The method according to claim 46, wherein the authentication method is SecureId or SafeWord authentication.

54. (New) The method according to claim 48, further comprising:  
determining at the server the authentication capabilities of the electronic communication apparatus based on the plurality of authentication capabilities listed in the authentication method list.

55. (New) The method according to claim 54, further comprising:  
executing at the server authentication operations according to one of the plurality of authentication capabilities indicated in the authentication method list;  
preparing a message at the server comprising the authentication method indicator and any authentication data relating to the specified authentication method; and  
transmitting the message to the electronic communication apparatus.

56. (New) The method according to claim 55, further comprising:  
receiving the message at the electronic communication apparatus;  
executing, at the electronic communication apparatus, authentication operations according to the authentication method indicated by the authentication method indicator to generate an expected result;  
preparing a response to the server comprising the authentication method indicator, and any authentication data; and  
transmitting the response to the server.

57. (New) The method according to claim 46, wherein the authentication method is SIM/USIM authentication, the method further comprising:

using CKs/IKs (cipher keys/integrity keys) generated by the electronic communication apparatus and the server, respectively, to provide integrity protection, wherein the CKs/IKs are used for generating MAC values; and  
using a hashing function for computing a HMAC on the message.

58. (New) The method according to claim 52, further comprising:  
generating, at the server, an integrity key that is encrypted with the public key of the electronic communication apparatus;

sending the integrity key to the electronic communication apparatus;  
using the integrity key at the electronic communication apparatus to generate MAC values; and

using a hashing function at the electronic communication apparatus to compute a HMAC on the message.

59. (New) An electronic communication apparatus, comprising:  
means for providing an authentication method indicator that specifies an authentication method according to which the authentication is to be executed;  
means for incorporating into a message the authentication method indicator comprising a plurality of authentication capabilities of the communication apparatus; and  
means for transmitting said message to a server according to an authentication protocol of a synchronization protocol.

60. (New) The electronic communication apparatus according to claim 59, further comprising:

means for sending an initialization message to the server for establishing a connection, the message comprising the authentication method indicator.

61. (New) The electronic communication apparatus according to claim 60, wherein the initialization message further comprises type of apparatus and/or identity of the electronic communication apparatus.

62. (New) The electronic communication apparatus according to claim 61, further comprising:

means for incorporating authentication data in a data string of the message to be sent according to the synchronization protocol.

63. (New) The electronic communication apparatus according to claim 59, further comprising:

means for using an IK (integrity key) to generate a MAC to provide integrity protection; and

means for using a hashing function to compute a HMAC on the message to be sent.

64. (New) The electronic communication apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the authentication method is GSM SIM authentication.

65. (New) The electronic communication apparatus according to claim 59, wherein the authentication method is UMTS USIM authentication, which provides server authentication.

66. (New) The electronic communication apparatus according to claim 59, wherein the authentication method is SecureId, SafeWord, WPKI and/or WIM authentication.

67. (New) The electronic communication apparatus according to claim 59, wherein the electronic communication apparatus is a pager, an electronic organizer, and/or a smartphone.

68. (New) The electronic communication apparatus according to claim 59, wherein the electronic communication apparatus is a mobile telephone.

69. (New) A server, comprising:  
means for incorporating an authentication method indicator in a message to be sent according to an authentication protocol of a synchronization protocol for indicating an authentication method according to which the authentication is to be executed;  
means for determining from the authentication method indicator of a received message a plurality of authentication capabilities of an apparatus; and  
means for determining the authentication method to use based on the plurality of authentication capabilities.

70. (New) The server according to claim 69, further comprising:  
means for incorporating any authentication data in a data string of a message to be transmitted according to the synchronization protocol.

71. (New) The server according to claim 69, further comprising:  
means for executing authentication according to the determined authentication method.

73. (New) The server according to claim 69, further comprising:  
means for using an IK (integrity key) to generate a MAC to provide integrity protection; and  
means for using a hashing function to compute a HMAC on the message to be sent.

74. (New) The server according to claim 70, wherein the authentication method is GSM SIM authentication.

75. (New) The server according to claim 24, wherein the authentication method is UMTS USIM authentication, which provides a server authentication variable to the apparatus.

76. (New) The server according to claim 24, wherein the authentication method is SecureId, SafeWord, WPKI and/or WIM authentication.